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EMISSIONS LOWEST IN HISTORY OF SITE**

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FERNALD 1990 AIRBORNE URANIUM EMISSIONS LOWEST IN HISTORY OF SITE

CINCINNATI, Ohio -- Airborne uranium emissions from the U. S. Department of Energy's Feed Materials Production Center in 1990 were the lowest in the history of the site, according to the FMPC Annual Environmental Report issued today.

Environmental reports are published annually at the Fernald Site, now called the Fernald Environmental Management Project (FEMP) after the site's former uranium production mission was formally ended in 1991. The report presents sampling data for air, water, soil, sediment, vegetation, meat, fish and other media which are collected throughout the year as part of the FEMP environmental monitoring program.

In addition to environmental monitoring data, the Annual Environmental Report calculates the radiation dose to the public resulting from Fernald operations. In 1990, the maximally-exposed individual -- a hypothetical person who is assumed to live near the K-65 silos, drink water from the Great Miami River, and eat local produce, beef, and fish -- received a maximum effective dose of 10 millirem, which is 10 percent of the 100 millirem limit established by the International Commission on Radiological Protection.

Estimated uranium emissions to the air from the Fernald Site in 1990 totaled seven pounds, as compared to 66 pounds released in 1989. Uranium discharges to the river were 1,729 pounds, compared with 1,854 in 1989. The decrease in airborne releases reflects the fact that production operations were halted in mid-1989 and have never resumed. Discharges to the river should continue to decline as additional wastewater treatment capacity is installed at the FEMP. All emissions were well within applicable Department of Energy limits.

As environmental restoration and waste management efforts proceed at the FEMP, environmental monitoring programs remain in place to track progress in reducing potential contamination of the environment. Future reports will reflect the new mission of the FEMP.

Copies of the annual environmental report may be obtained at the Public Environmental Information Center, 10485 Hamilton-Cleves Road, or by contacting the Department of Energy Fernald Office.

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